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EDITORIAL

THE COUNCIL MEETING

As already announced, the National Council of Teachers of English will convene in annual session in Chicago, November 29-30. Two matters for regret present themselves at once: Thanksgiving turkey must, in many cases, be eaten enroute and, though Chicago is perhaps as central as possible, many members from the seaboard will doubtless feel that the effort of attendance is too great. The Council will have to face the question of how proportionate representation can be maintained. Fortunately this is amply provided for so far as the governing body, the Board of Directors, is concerned.

The program will warrant, however, more than ordinary effort to be present. No fewer than eight committees will report either progress or final results, and their problems are, without exception, of far-reaching importance. Consider, for example, the work of the Committee on Grammatical Nomenclature. This subject is now being discussed throughout the British Empire, in various countries on the Continent, and in several American states. Moreover, a joint committee, made up largely of philologists and teachers of foreign languages in the United States, has had the matter under advisement for some time and may be expected to promulgate a policy in the near future. If practical teachers of English in the schools wish to have a voice in determining the nomenclature of the textbooks in grammar, they will find their opportunity in the Council. Equal importance is to be attached to the other reports. Perhaps that on the labor and cost of composition teaching may be singled out for special mention. Professor Hopkins and his associates, by most faithful effort, have gathered a body of facts whose significance cannot possibly be missed. The status of English must and will be changed. Either the conditions necessary to satisfactory results will be provided or its position as the central subject in the curriculum will have to be surrendered. The

Council has the opportunity to suggest the remedy and to bring tremendous pressure to bear in getting the remedy applied. The members should come prepared for decisive action.

A new feature, the section meetings, will appeal to all. Here will be opportunity to draw nearer to those engaged in like service. It is especially gratifying to know that public speaking is not to wander alone but will join helpfully the other activities intended to insure a mastery of the mother-tongue. Here, as always, in union there is strength. Moreover, the plaint heard last year that no provision had been made for the special interests of teachers in the elementary schools will not arise. Professor Baker's acceptance of the chairmanship of the section is ample assurance that important topics in that field will be ably handled.

The success of the November meeting, as well as the future of the Council, is, of course, in the hands of the members. Every individual who can by any means attend will surely do so. Every local association should send its quota of delegates, from whom the Directors are mainly chosen. All members should feel it both a duty and a pleasure to acquaint their colleagues with the plans for the meeting and to urge them to join us without delay. A good thing is well started and needs only the combined enthusiasm and loyalty of those already interested to become one of the most powerful and helpful of the educational agencies of our time.